THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Damage and tampering of mail

1205. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of damaging and tampering of mail by the employees of the postal department are on the rise throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of complaints made by the general public in this regard during the last three years in each State and Union Territory;

(c) the number of cases in which action was taken and responsibility fixed and the number of cases in which compensation was paid; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the safety of mail from damage and tampering in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) The information is being obtained and would be placed on the table of the House.

Group Dialling facilities in Madhya Pradesh Telephone Exchanges

1206. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many telephone exchanges, particularly, the smaller ones in the State of Madhya Pradesh do not have group dialling facilities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make available the group dialling facilities in all the telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) There are 1566 telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh. Out of which 253 are having Group Dialling facility.

(c) Schemes have been prepared for providing Group Dialling facilities in 407 eligible telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 and for the remaining during 1993-94.

Losses suffered by Telecom Department

1207. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently adopted a policy wherein the staff members would be held accountable for the losses of revenue suffered by the Telecommunication Department;

(b) if so, in how many cases, Government have fixed responsibility and staff members held accountable for the loss; and

(c) what is the extent to which such steps would increase the efficiency of the Department ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : (a) Sir, disciplinary rules already contain provisions for recovery of any pecuniary loss suffered by the Department from any employee if he is held directly responsible. No other new policy in this regard has been recently adopted.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Australian Technology for Network Management system in the country

1208. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Australia had offered "Grant in-aid" for setting up a Network Management System at the national and regional levels in the country and that the offer has been accepted by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telecast technologies offered by Australia is obsolete; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for accepting an absolete Australian technology and what purpose it is going to serve in the Network Management System in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) There is no offer of grant-in-aid from Telecom Australia. But as part of overall cooperation between India and Australia the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau has selected Telecom Australia International Ltd. (TAI) to undertake the feasibility study for setting up of Network Management System in India. The report of the study has been received very recently and is under examination.

Illegal Tele-connections in Northern Region

1209. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news-item published in the Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 5th September, 1992 capitioned "CBI unearths racket in phone sanctions orders" in Northern India;

(b) if so, what are the places where the CBI conducted searches, list of incriminating documents seized, number of officials arrested including officials of the D.O.T. and what action has so far been taken against each of them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is the second case registered by the CBI in connection with fraudulent out of turn telephone sanctions and the earlier case was registered in July, 1992; if so, whether DOT would ascertain the wider ramifications of the rackets of this type; and

(d) whether the Minister is also aware of an I.S.D. racket in Delhi where people could make international calls at very low rates fixed by the organisers, if so, the details thereof and action taken by DOT in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CBI had conducted searches in Punjab, interrogated persons including officials of the Deptt. of Telecommunications. Two officials of D.O.T. at Delhi were arrested. The CBI investigation is in progress and their final report is awaited.

(c) No, Sir. This is the only case of issue of fake sanctioned registered during the year 1992 by the CBI.

(d) Yes, Sir. In one case a Telecom Official found indulging in such a malpractice had been arrested recently, with the help of CBI. In another case, a Sub-divisional Officer and his JTO have been suspended for lack of supervision. Active assistance of CBI is being taken to curb such malpractices. Four special Cells of CBI, each under the charge of a Superintendent of Police are being set up at Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta to investigate into such cases. A high level Committee is being constituted for an indepth study of cases of such malpractices and for suggesting remedial measures to curb such malpractices.

Waiting list for Calcutta telephone

1210. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

the number of persons on the waiting list in each telephone exchange in Calcutta; and by when telephone connections are likely to be sanctioned to them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : The exchange wise waiting list as on 1-11-92 is given in statement. (*See* below). This waiting list is likely to be cleared by 1995-96 subject to the timely availability of stores and resources.